(h) Extension education efforts will be strengthened to make farmers more receptive to new technology.

Consequently, there has been a considerable increase and improvement in the production and productivity of major foodgrain crops as indicated below:

| Crops | 1997-98 | | 1998-99 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production (Million tonnes) | Productivity (kg/ha.) | Production (Million tonnes) | Productivity (kg/ha.) |
| Rice | 82.54 | 1900 | 86.00 | 1928 |
| Wheat | 66.35 | 2485 | 70.78 | 2583 |
| Coarse Cerelas | 30.40 | 986 | 31.46 | 1065 |
| Pulses | 12.97 | 567 | 14.80 | 622 |
| Total Foodgrain | 192.26 | 1552 | 203.04 | 1620 |

**Assessment of Flood and Natural Calamity situation in Assam**

3538. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the floods and natural calamities situation in the country particularly in the State of Assam during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the full details regarding Assam which is badly affected as a result of floods areas, if necessary; and

(c) the details of financial assistance/grants provided by Government so far in this regard to the State of Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Preliminary assessment of natural calamities including floods, is made by the State Governments. The Central Team also visits the affected.

(b) A statement showing the damage caused by floods in Assam during 1998-99 is annexed. (*See* below)

(c) The State of Assam was released Rs. 41.60 crore as Central share from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during 1998-99. In addition, Rs. 59.90 crore were released to the State from National Fund of Calamity Relief (NFCR).

**Statement**

*Details of damages to life, property, crops etc. due to floods in Assam during 1998-99*

| | Total Distts. (No.) | Districts affected (No.) | Villages affected | Area affected (in lakh Hectare) | Population affected (in lakh) | Damage to crop in Area (lakh Ha.) | Damage to houses/huts to (No.) | Human lives lost (No.) | Animals lost (No.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asaam | 23 | 21 | 5292 | 9.72 | 46.98 | 2.89 | 30399 | 105 | 7814 |